



Photo by Bill Rhodes

# Newtown Creek Early Action Concept



July 9, 2018

# Why We Are Here

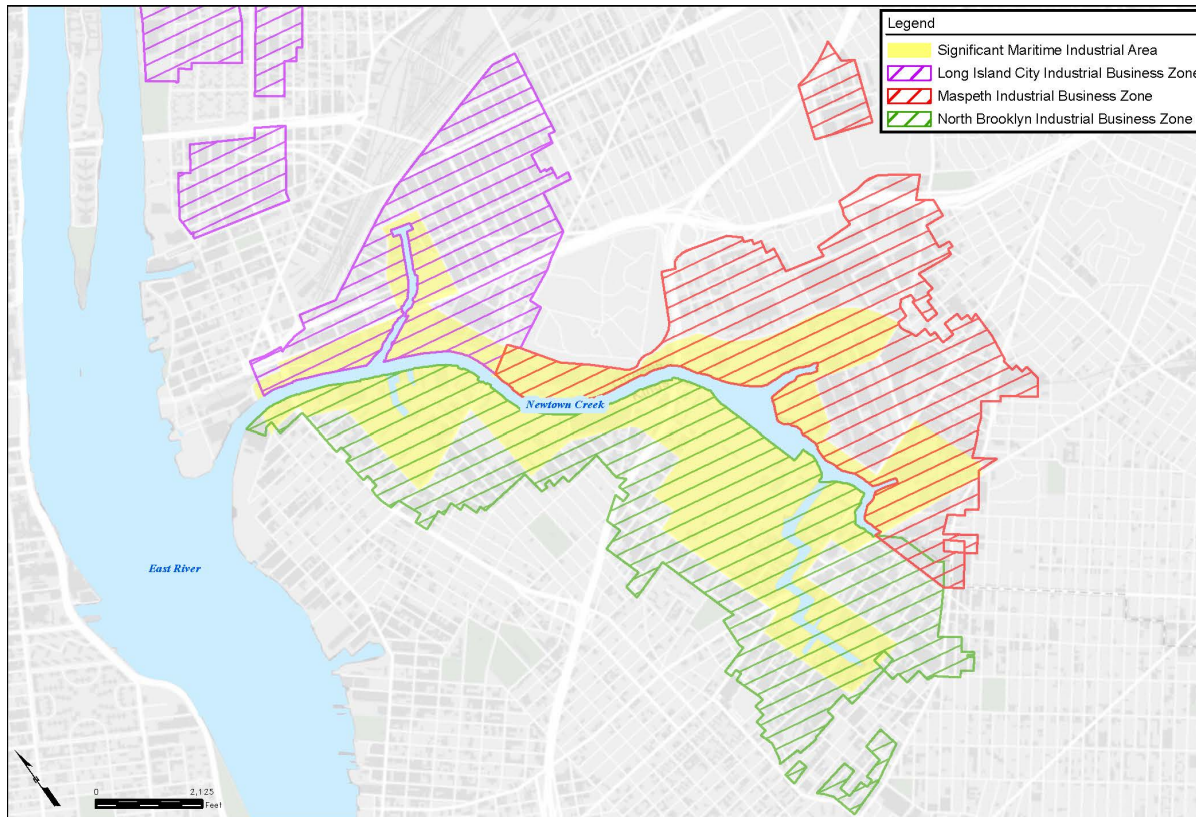
- The NCG sees an opportunity to work with USEPA and the community to accelerate remediation of a large portion of the creek (Creek Mile 0–2)
- Provides common ground for key stakeholders
  - USEPA: Aligns with Superfund reforms
  - USEPA, NYSDEC, NYC: Aligns CERCLA and CWA goals for Newtown Creek
  - Business: Aligns local business community's concerns about a protracted cleanup and uncertainty about the future of the creek
  - Community: Provides economic benefit and satisfies community's desire for quicker remedy and cleaner creek while preserving industry and retaining valuable jobs
- Early Action will be coupled with a Treatability Study to inform approach for remainder of the creek
- **The NCG needs USEPA to make a decision on cleanup goals**
  - Using draft Region 2 background analysis is a scientifically sound and practical basis for selection of cleanup goals

# Newtown Creek Conceptual Site Model

This conceptual site model is informed by 8 years of study costing >\$117 million

- Key contaminants of concern are PCBs, PAHs, and copper
- Key features influencing the system include the following
  - East River
  - CSOs (stormwater and wastewater)
  - Lack of natural headwater
- Key hub for New York City industrial activity
- These influences are considered in the conceptual site model that is the foundation of the Early Action

# Newtown Creek's Industrial Corridor – most significant industrial footprint in NYC

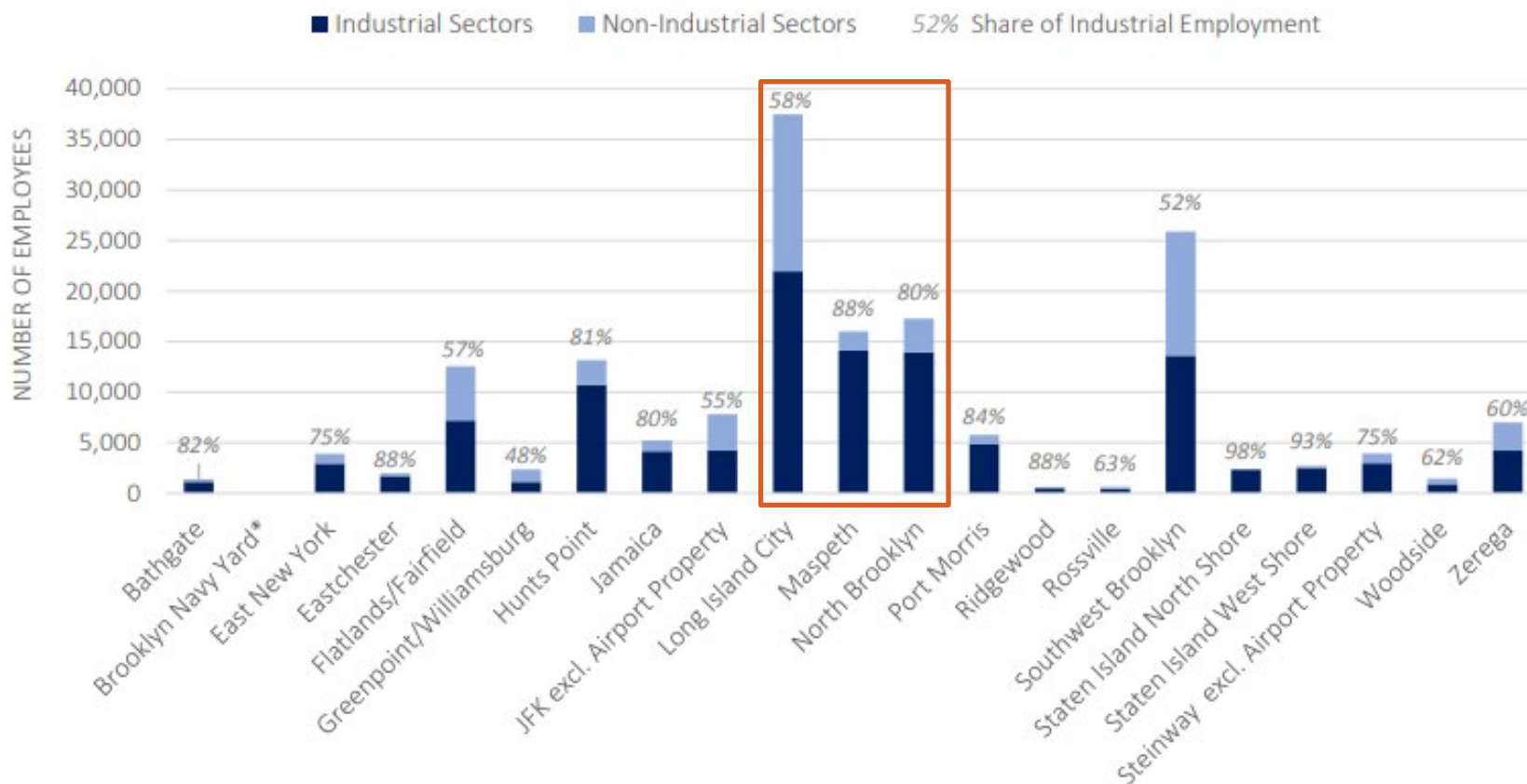


- Significant Maritime Industrial Area (SMIA) is largest in NYC
- Three major Industrial Business Zones (IBZs)
- 3 IBZs provide 70,000+ jobs, \$3.5B wages, and \$1.7B taxes (NYC Economic Development Corporation)



# Newtown's IBZs among largest in NYC

Employment by Industry Category and IBZ in 2014

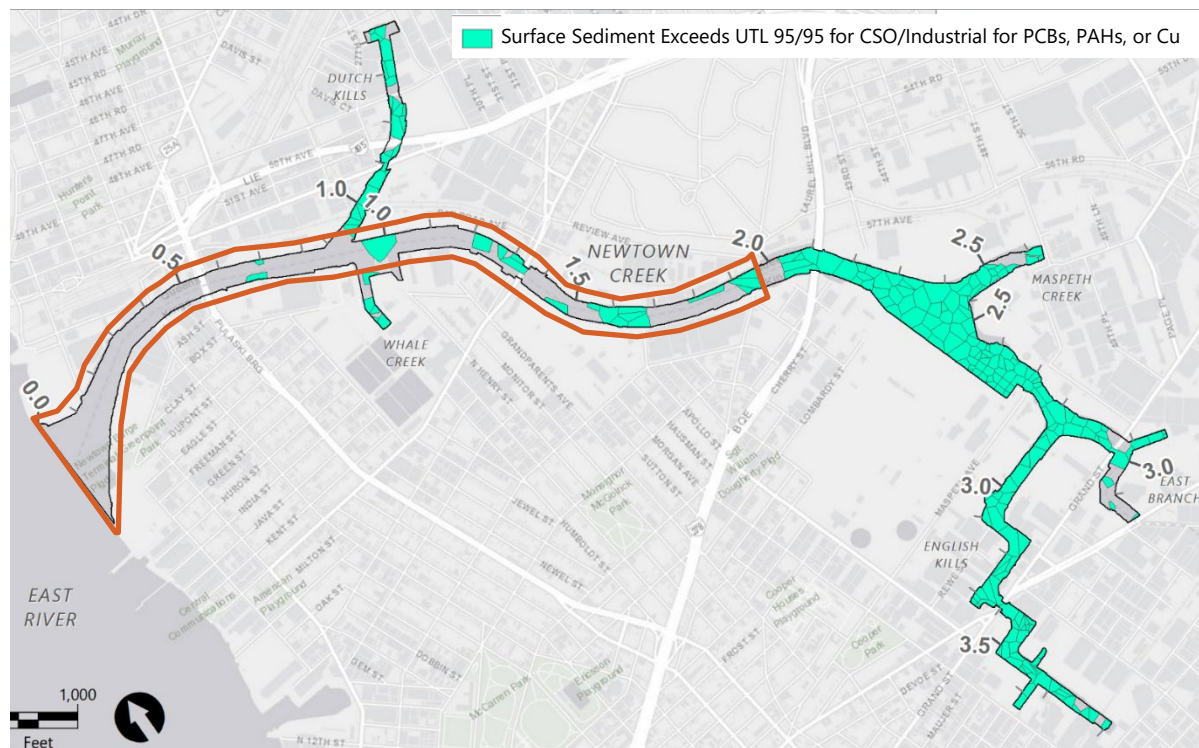


Source: NYSDOL QCEW 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter  
Analysis excludes businesses located on airport property and Brooklyn Navy Yard

# Early Action

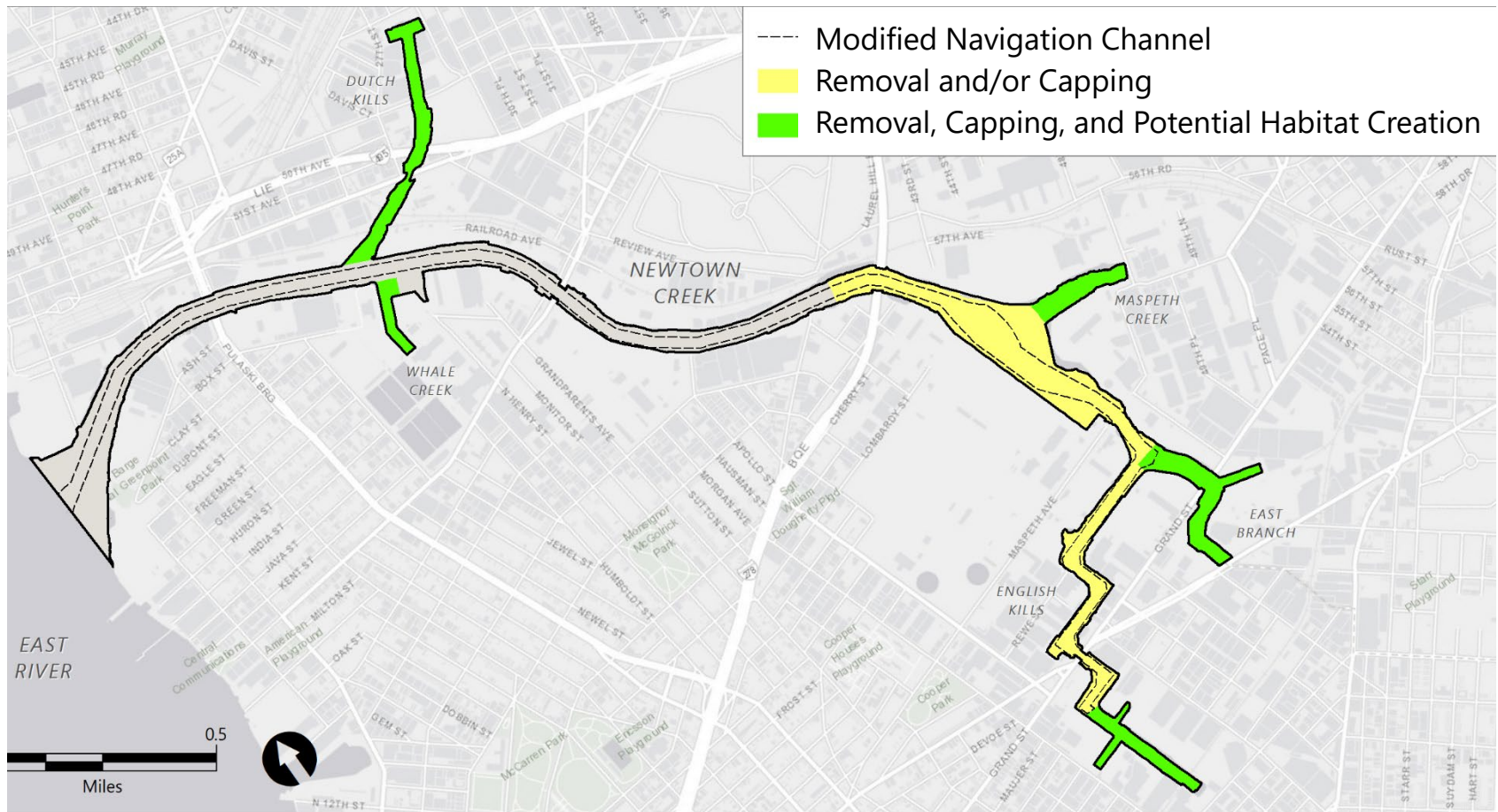
# Rationale for Early Action

- Most of CM 0–2 surface sediment contaminant concentrations are at or below background levels
- Current and future conditions in CM 0–2 dictated by deposition from East River tidal exchange
- Information is still needed in the Turning Basin and tributaries to inform site-wide remedy
  - FS sampling
  - Treatability Study



# Remedy Options for Rest of the Creek

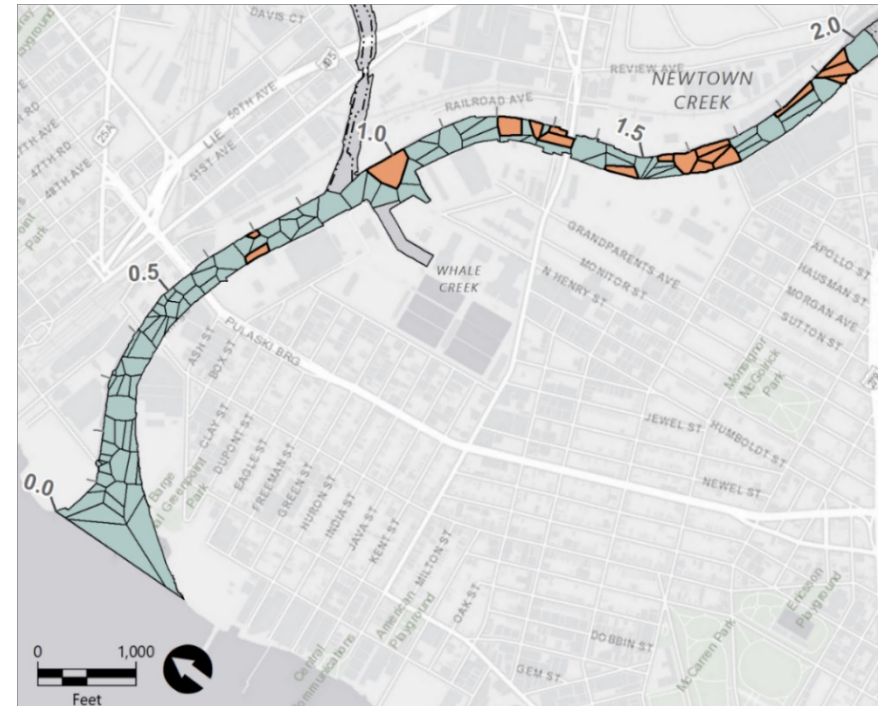
*Removal with capping, potential for wetland creation, modified navigation channel*





# NCG Early Action Concept

- Areas with surface sediment contaminant concentrations above background levels will be delineated and remediated
- Comprehensive monitoring using defined sediment benchmarks
  - Confirm no further action is needed
- Sets foundation for continued industrial use and other stakeholder interests



**Surface Sediment above PCB, PAH, or Cu  
CSO/Industrial Background Threshold Values (BTVs)**

# Environmental Benefits of Early Action

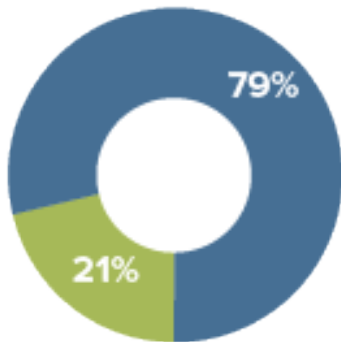
- Coordinates CWA and CERCLA programs with one set of cleanup goals for entire site
- Accelerates cleanup and recovery in large portion of site
- Sets realistic expectations for site-wide remedy by integrating background into cleanup goals for Newtown Creek
- Treatability study component will inform Feasibility Study for future remedy for remainder of the creek

# Economic Benefits of Early Action

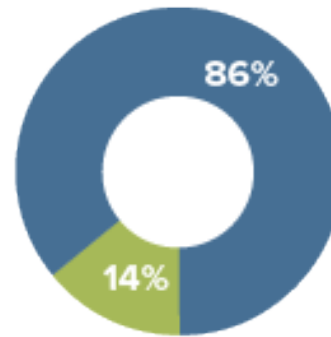
- The industrial corridor is shrinking
- Survey of local businesses reflect concerns about time to complete remedy and remedy construction-related impacts that could negatively affect businesses
- Potential post-remediation estimates of employment benefits resulting from the Early Action (lower 2 miles) are about 1,500 jobs, \$70M annual wages, and \$130M annual gross regional product

# Business Owner Survey

- 200+ businesses within the IBZ contacted, ~40 percent participation, excellent response rate
  - Of survey respondents who expressed concern:



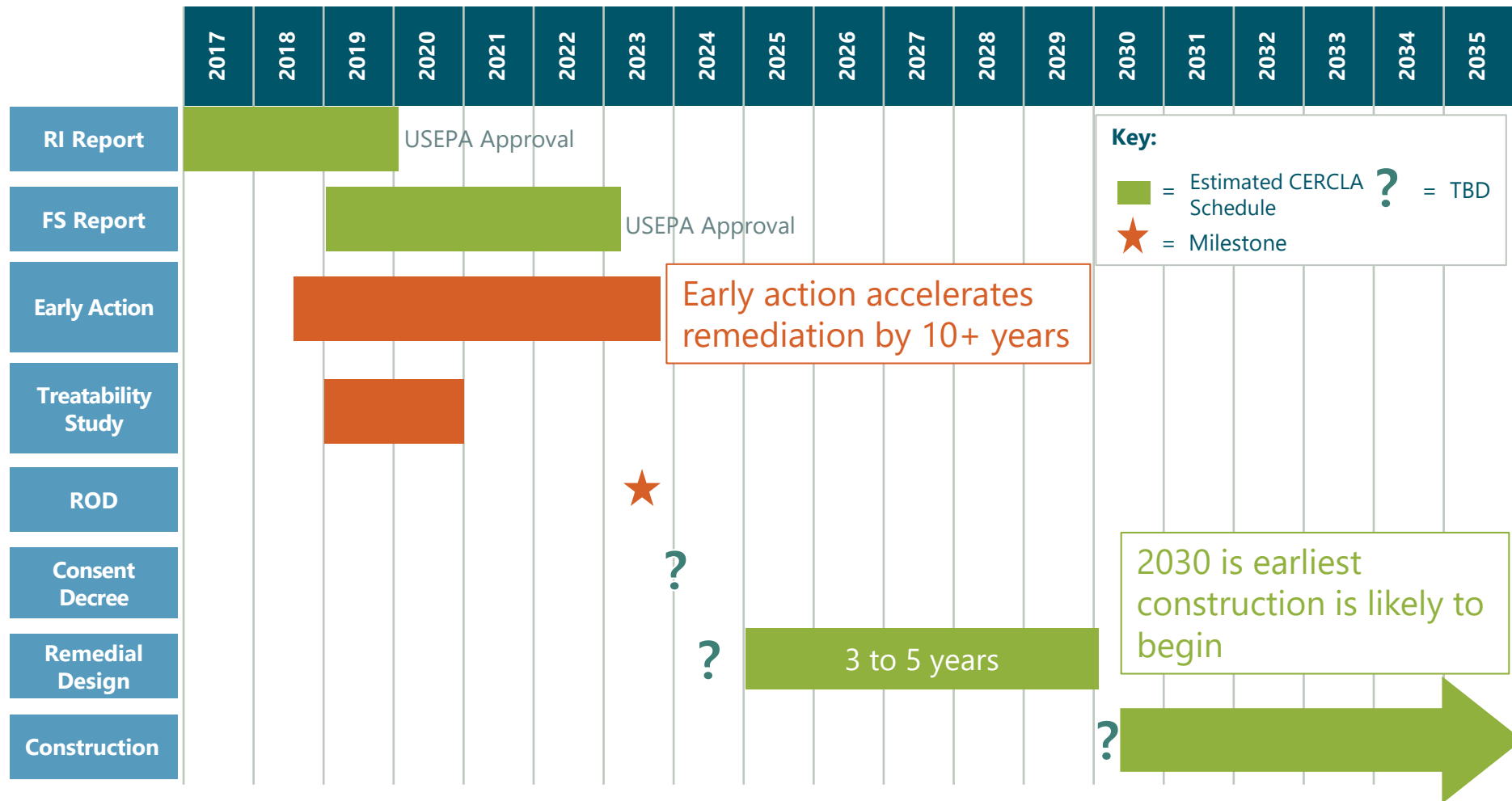
79% preferred  
a quicker  
cleanup



86% had concerns  
about a protracted  
remediation



# Draft Newtown Creek Schedule\* and NCG Early Action Concept



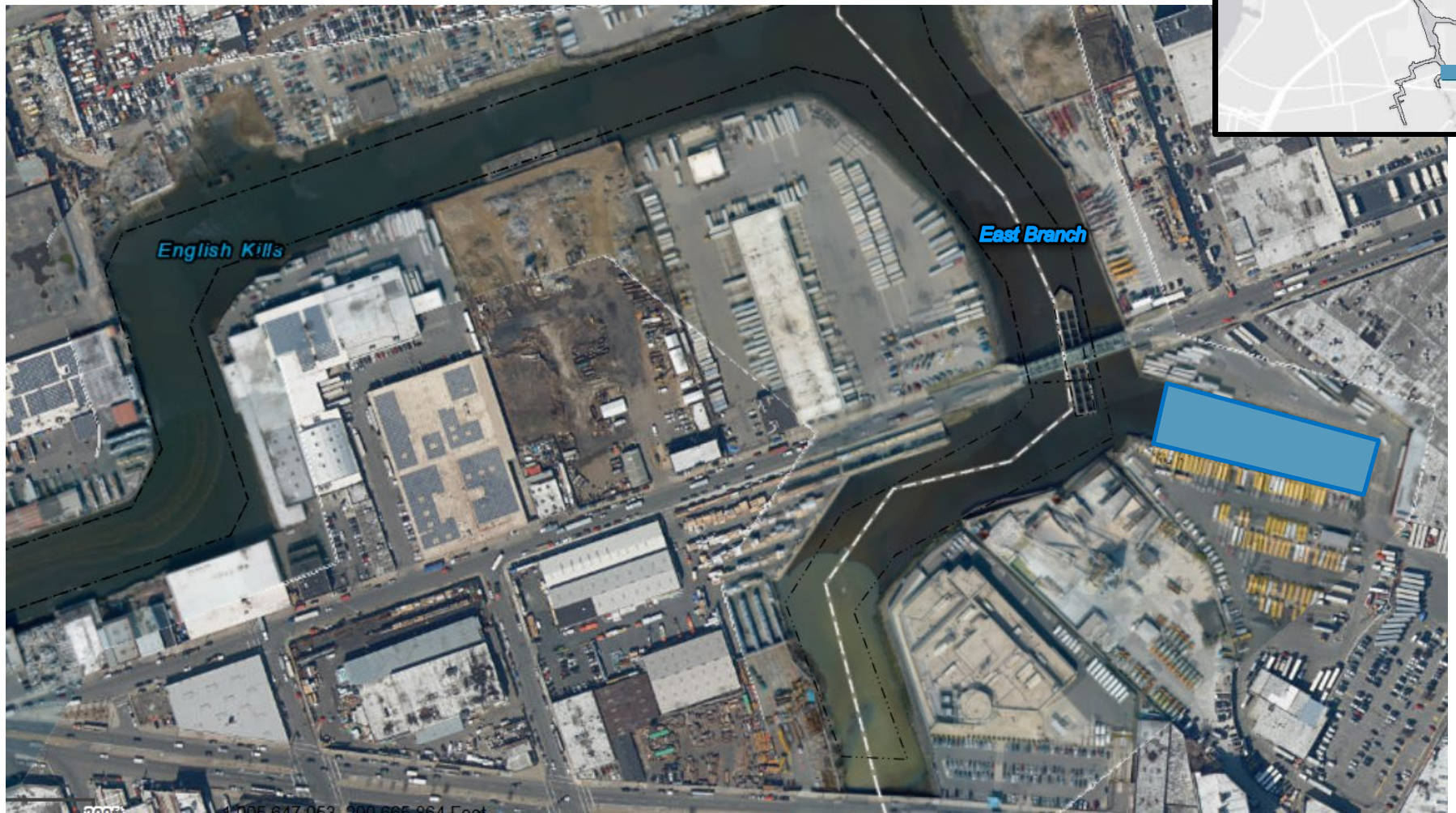
\* Schedule based on NCG proposed revisions provided to USEPA on October 31, 2017.

# Treatability Study

# NCG Treatability Study

- Goal: Provide site-specific data necessary to support the evaluation of one or more potential remedial technologies for site-wide FS
- Objectives
  - Understand ability to cap soft sediment
  - Assess applicability of in-situ stabilization (ISS)
  - Evaluate dredged material dewatering and handling

# Potential Location for Treatability Study





# Conclusions and Request for Action

- CM 0–2 is a sound candidate for Early Action – accelerating cleanup activity by 10+ years
- Early Action will provide common ground for key stakeholders, including alignment on CERCLA and CWA solutions
- Treatability Study to inform approach for remainder of the creek
- USEPA HQ has been briefed and requested further engagement
- **NCG needs expedited decision on cleanup goals**
  - Using draft Region 2 background analysis is a scientifically sound and practical basis for selection of cleanup goals

# Questions/Discussion

